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No. 22 | 23 NOVEMBER 1987 | Atiu- Cook Islands

WHO PAYS FOR THE BOOM? —— OUR KIDS DO

IT'S NO GOOD.

Education's Grim Tale

7½% THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

ABOVE: Senior Atiu NZSC students prepare for exams on a science field trip. Facing an impoverished future ? See accompnaying article.

Comment was widespread among Atiuan parents last week following new Education Minister Matepi Matepi's whistle stop visit.

Minister Matepi itemised budget figures relating to Education. Throughout the week the JOURNAL received shock responses from parents and many teachers.

The Minister was reported to have revealed to parent and teacher groups a budget breakdown which gave Education an 8.6% share of the total $56m. national government income.

This is the lowest in the Pacific, Mr. Matepi is said to have stated.

Further analysis of the Education vote for the 1987-8 period offered by educational authorities set the actual "real" vote at 7½% in terms of what ends up within the national state schools system.

(ctd..on Page 3)

88 murders in one hour !

In a special feature, satirist "vera" looks at the MONSTER VIDEO as well as conducting an in-depth socially significant survey of RACISM, the scourge of the nation!

SEE INSIDE

-heavy going

Parliament kicks off.

P11

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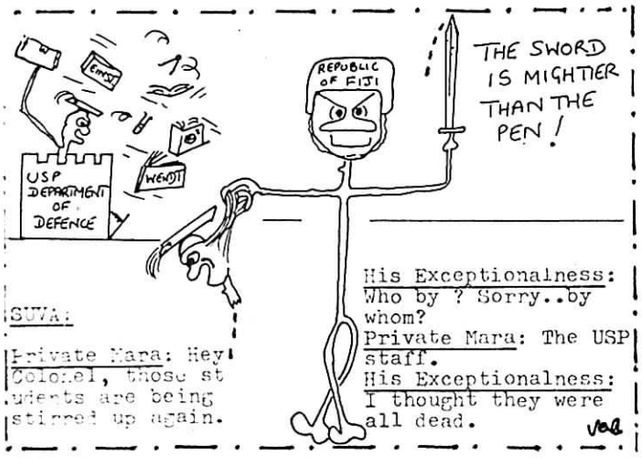
Editorial


REPUBLIC OF FIJI
THE SWORD IS MIGHTIER THAN THE PEN!
USP DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
His Exceptionalness: Who by ? Sorry..by whom?
Private Mara: The USP staff.
His Exceptionalness: I thought they were all dead.
SUVA:
Private Mara: Hey Colonel, those students are being stirred up again.
Vea

"No, but seriously.."

Returning from his recent visit to the USP, CIs. Council representative and Secretary of Education, Mr. Tuingariki shortly has privately expressed some optimism about the USP situation.

"I see some grounds for hope," he announced on his return.

Mr. Short is a perceptive social critic and not prone to wish-fulfilment normally.

However, the incentives for wish-fulfilment in the matter of Fiji are so high that caution needs to be taken and the statements of even the sincerest of official visitors regarded with thorough scepticism.

They need to be taken in the same spirit as one is obliged to take French and caldoche assurances that all is well in Noumea for the SPC.

The convenience of finding an acceptable PR stance towards Fiji which will allow for liberal posturing whilst opening up vital diplomatic, commercial and educational links with the military regime must be recognised.

It is in many interests for Regional nations to find an accommodation with the gunmen who run Fiji. The gunmen themselves, however, have sought no such accommodation with the regional and Commonwealth democracies. They remain what they are - a totalitarian regime which, when rejected by the people at the ballot box, seized power at gun point.

The "hope" Mr. Short and many well-meaning regionalists may feel is self-interested. Under the Melanesian Mafia running Suva, there is no hope for the Fiji working class. As for USP, its academic standing is shattered. The staff have voted with their feet.

CONTENTS

POLITICS

Our main article surveys the education scene facing new Minister Matepi Matepi following his recent outspoken visit to Atiu.

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Is there an ideology underlying Coalition Economics ? We offer the JOURNAL's view, in the light of Minister George's latest pronouncements on the future of the Atiuan development programme.

LIVING

All the local and international Sports News of the week.

Tourism...do the people have a role ? The JOURNAL says yes and demonstrates how!

VERA

CRACK! CRASH! CRUNCH!

The CIs. and Atiu come under the pen of the popular satirist. This week... RACISM, VIDEO and more, more more, folks!

THE JOURNAL

a national publication.

The JOURNAL is a weekly review of events and life in Atiu the Cook Islands and Polynesia from an independent regional standpoint.

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POLITICS

7½% THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

Hon Matepi Matepi
(Oneroa)
Minister of Education

"HONEST MINISTER AT LAST"

-CIP supporter, commenting on Minister Matepi's budget comments last week.

A local CIP stalwart was positively bubbling with excitement.

"That's the first time," he claimed, "I've heard of a Minister telling us the straight facts!"

"I don't mind if the news is bad if, at least they tell us the truth!"

The enthusiastic receiver of disaster was referring to new Education Minister, Matepi Matepi (Oneroa).

The Minister had made public to parents and teachers the grim news of Education's disastrous financial state.

Others did mind the bad news!

An anonymous department member was overheard by a parent saying, "there ought to be a public enquiry!"

What he was referring to was the approximate figure of 8.4% which is national Education's cut of the Government's $56m overall budget.

During the course of his one day visit to Atiu, Mr. Matepi gave a close breakdown of the budget as it relates to Education.

Education's Grim Tale

"We had been fighting for 10%, " a parent reports him as saying, "but it was steadily cut back."

Educationists aware of the actual education breakdown point out that the maximum they believe can be claimed to be a true percentage of government's spending on education is 7½% in round figures.

This figure is based upon what remains from the 8.4% mentioned by Mr. Matepi after an obligatory $½m has gone to meet our committment to USP as a member SP nation after an estimated $200, ooo has gone towards meeting the Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mangaia transport bills.

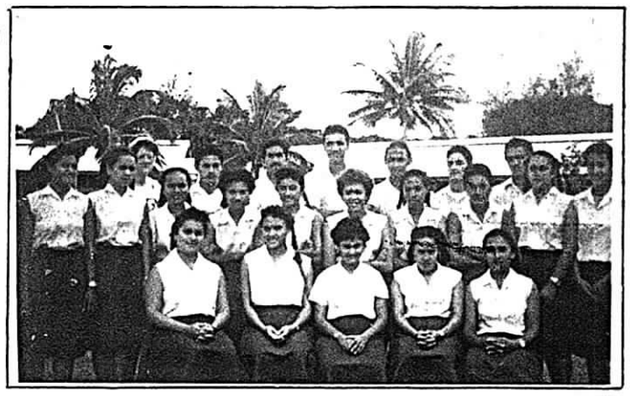
"We are far, far the lowest budget spender on education in the Region," said another of the visiting education tere to Atiu and mentioned 18% to 22% as being the parameters of normal SP Regional budget allocations to education.

It is unfortunate that this paper is not in a position to supply our readers with itemised analysis of our educational affairs.

Our editor and two of our main reporters are teachers bound by terms of service.

Other media agencies obliged by Act of Parliament to report in the "public interest" have failed to open up enquiry into what we have been for a long time aware many parents regard as a "national scandal" - the budget allocation to their children.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Atiu College NZSC class ready for exams!

the quorums (AN EVERYDAY TALE OF POLITICAL FOLK) tropo

Aue te Reka! Mmm!
Put it down to MOW.....
ICE CREAM E MEA REKA
..No?.. ah well.. AGRICUTURE then... no good?... Education?... Foreign Affairs...
ICE CR E MEAR
"Good God.. SOMEONE must have something left.... Hmmm.... I wonder?
IC E M
....THAT's it.....!
Yes...
..charge it to the Opposition!

POLITICS

(...from Page 3)

The JOURNAL is therefore appreciative of the Minister's bold decision to make public to parents the facts of the budget dilemma he faces.

What may take the heat off Mr. Matepi in cabinet is the reaction we can report from teachers following his statements.

In brief, the Minister may have taken some of the mounting heat out of the furnace of discontent the teachers' salaries issue is stoking up.

"He was honest with us. He gave us facts, not 'b------t'. So I think we should give him a bit of time to sort things out," said a senior teacher in a direct approach to the JOURNAL, adding, "you can print that he deserves that much for telling us what the sum was he needed to pay our rises and why is wasn't available and where he would be looking to get it!"

THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

Matepi Matepi is a comsummate "politicians' politician."

An ex-teacher, noted as a political activist early in his career, he "inherited" his Mangaian constituency from his father Ngatupuna in 1975.

Young Mangaians from Ivirua School

He holds one of the larger majorities in the House and, although regularly predicted as losing support, he has at election times equally regularly proved such statements to be wishful thinking by opponents.

There were persistent rumours of his retirement.

He has not enjoyed good health of late and, with a pension now secure, a couple of businesses and his family grown up and departed to all corners of the globe, the rumours were often given some amount of credence.

In spite of the stregth of his majority, he was until now always regarded as the "arch-backbencher.

Even his elevation to the post of Deputy Speaker in Coalition II seemed out of character for a man who had never expressed any public desire to be more than an ordinary MP.

His fairly lengthy spell as Assistant Minister of Agriculture was spent quietly but conscientiously occupying his desk.

An experienced and energetic planter prior to his Parliamentary career, he was generally expected to work out the present term adding what he could to the Agriculture Ministry.

The regular group of "Young Turks" after his seat in Oneroa must, then, have certainly felt a sharp blow to their hopes

7½%

From a little-heard apparent has-been existing to provide an on cue vote for the Coalition, Matepi burst back into prominence last August.

The internal caucus coup which overthrew PM Sir Thomas Davis created one vacant cabinet seat.

It was confidently predicted by the punditis that it would go to one of the Northern Group Pupuke-loyalists.

The Cabinet post, however went to Matepi.

In enquiring behind the scenes, we were able to discover that the Mangaian member had been, prior to the coup, no lightweight.

We have it on reliable authority, that Matepi was ready to resign from the coalition over what he considered aspects of the Davis budget which hurt Mangaia.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Education

OUR KIDS

There are less than half a dozen private schools in the country.

They are all small and run by Roman Catholic and SDA churches.

Consequently, education in the Cook Islands means state education...free, secular and subject to the provisions of the 1987 Education Act.

There are 22 Primary Schools, 4 High Schools, 6 Secondary Colleges and kindergartens/pre-schools in each district.

All Outer Islands children can be educated up to secondary level on their own Island. Three S. Group Outer Islands take their students up to New Zealand School Certificate, another goes as far as 6th Form Certificate.

Scholarships are offered from time to time to enable Northern Group students to complete their education at Tereora College, Rarotonga. A small hostel exists for this purpose.

The Cook Islands takes external overseas examinations following a national (CISC) examination at 15 years.

Students take NZSC and NZ 6th Form Certificate. They finish by taking USP Foundation examinations at Tereora College, Rarotonga, after which they may be selected for the extremely generous scholarship system.

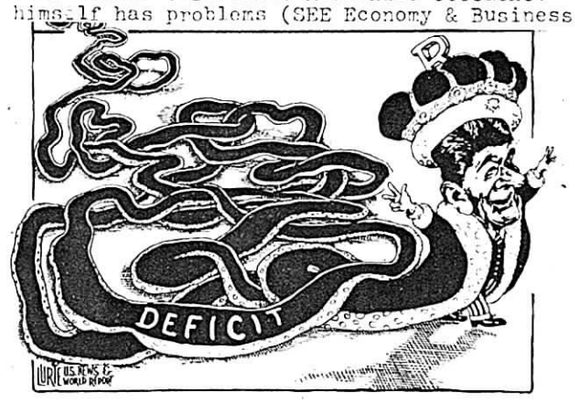
This provides free tertiary education at University and training institutions at a variety of Regional Institutes.

Basic education is free. Many areas of quality education, however, have to be funded by Parents and school committees.

Teacher salaries range from a trained beginner on about $6000.00NZ to a secondary Principal on just under $20000NZ.

REAGAN

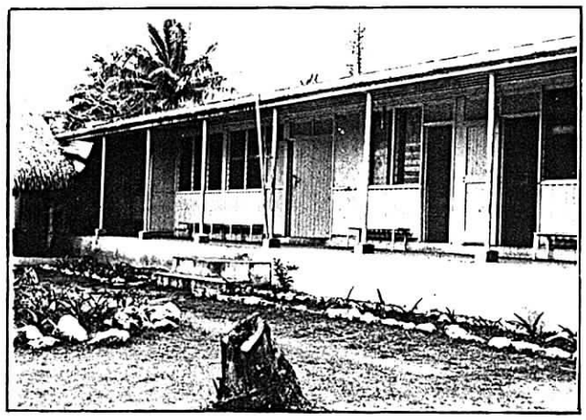
President Ronald Reagan still wrestles with his budget deficit and prepares for the important December summit with USSR leader Gorbachev. Meanwhile Gorbachev himself has problems (SEE Economy & Business)



POLITICS

7½% THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

Education's Grim Tale



Like the aging main block of Mangaia College (above) most school buildings are far into their third decade and more with very little having been spent on maintenance.

(ctd..from Page 4)

(Or, in the words of a somewhat cynical Pokino-Demo from Mangaia..."He knew he was really out on his neck if he let the Davis budget go through!")

Whatever the reason, it was the coup which finally thrust the Oneroa member into the political front rank after over ten years as the perpetual second ranker.

His elevation to Cabinet appears to have brought out a new look minister.

No longer the casual man with a quip for every occasion and a penchant for small-time petty quarrels, Matepi is emerging as a Minister of standing and commitment to the task of putting education right.

Certainly, his performance last week in Atiu seemed to impress the people he needs to impress-the teachers.

others

He is the sixth Minister they have seen in ten years and the first since Papa Simiona and Ngereteina Puna to make Education a priority interest.

The Davis years saw Education handed out as a left-over to a variety of Ministers whose experience and commitment were lowly rated by teachers.

The teachers appeared to end up with Tangaroa Tangaroa because Iaveta Short wanted out of Agriculture; Geoffrey Henry accepted it as a fourth interest behind Deputy PM, Tourism and MOW in Coalition I; and Terepai Maoate held the portfolio as a similar fourth priority in Coalition II. Meanwhile, the man who might well have transformed the whole service, former Permanent Secretary and Minister in the ill-starred CIP government of 1983, Ngereteina Puna had only four months of real power.

Hence, Matepi starts well in teachers' eyes as a former member of the profession, a local parent who has put all his children through both the Outer Is. and Rarotonga systems, and a member never afraid of a confrontation for the cause!

It is an open secret that confrontation has already taken place at a high level.

The Minister is committed, he says, to obtaining the funds for his teachers' salary rises.

In order to get them, he is embarking upon a protracted battle with cabinet colleagues to wrestle the Education vote back to an acceptable level.

That level will never be (can never be!) this year at the level educationists claim to be a minimum 18-20% needed to establish lifetime requirements for the children who constitute the majority of our population.

Matepi must balance the demands of those on the left of the CIs. political spectrum for whom no concessions are acceptable in terms of the provision of educational quality and the extremists on the opposite side who would claim that (and this is a great fear among teachers) patronage has to be fuelled more than ever in election year, adding the rider that children do not vote!

Matepi has qualities few but intimate acquaintances would know of.

The rough and tumble local politico who could have invented the old political axiom "never apologise, never explain", is a profound student of Parliament and the Constitution, a highly knowledgeable man on the workings of democracy. He is also a man who, when taking on a topic, does a lot of homework. He is also a rugged survivor.

The combination of political sophistication, background knowledge and willingness to do battle are tailor-made qualities for a Minister handling the education crisis.

Ngereteina Puna (Aitutaki)

-Shadow Spokesman on Education.

Teachers are confident he will do well.

They are equally aware, though, that any successes he achieves are likely to do a lot more for the Minister's own prestige than for education.

For...there is next to nothing to be done for education on 7½% of the national budget!

For that reason, Matepi's cabinet colleagues may do well to think twice before standing in the Minister's way.

Children may have no vote. But parents do.

And the education crisis is now so real and **biting so deeply** into the schools' teaching programmes that significant numbers of parents may well say that "we cannot subject our children to a further five years of it."

And, if that starts to prove to be a common reaction, they well turn in despair to the only **trustworthy** alternative to Matepi - the left-leaning advocate of high discipline, academic excellence and a high-spending education budget, Mr. Puna.

Matepi Matepi, ex-perennial back-bencher occupies a very very important place in government's establishment of credibility in the next year.

His colleagues may be ill-advised if they don't find him the cash he needs!

WHO PAYS FOR THE BOOM?

Education's Grim Tale

POLITICS

The JOURNAL's analysis of the education crisis is less a clear-cut study than a ramble across the lunar lanscape of CIs. education as it stands at the close of 1987, some ten years after the initiation of planned development programmes in secondary schools and some three years after the abandonment of rigid central planning under the impact of Coalition "open market" economic strategies. The JOURNAL has in the past acknowledged the growth of the Tourist Industry, the establishment of a Maori business class, hard-won political stability and an effectively increased international profile as among the achievements of the three coalition governments. The following article, however, suggests that the almost unbelievable reduction of the Education vote to 7½% in real terms of the National Budget is the inescapable price that is paid for right-wing open market economic strategies. Minister Matepi is achieving respect among teachers for his forthright declarations of discontent. His task, we feel, will severely challenge his ability to translate encouraging rhetoric into real actual change for the better.

Mangaian Primary Schoolchildren from Minister Matepi's own village in Oneroa. "Clean-ups", discipline and "culture" - once more becoming the substitute for academic education ?

IT'S NO GOOD

As always, there are two ways (dammit) of approaching the Cook Islands Education problems.

That's the really hard part of development!

Disposing of that damned second alternative...that's where everything sort of gets all messed up!

Take this Education affair, for example..

We have spent an industrious 22 years of self-government doing a bit of this and a bit of that.

Atiu College children. Resources slowly cut back year by year.

By and large and so on and so forth and here and there and so on etc..give or take the odd 95% failure rate etc...working class Maoris and their children have done marginally better than they did in the 1000 year build up to the inaugural Constitution Day.

Rich ones, titled ones, English-speaking ones, corrupt ones, athletics ones and political ones have done considerably better.

After 22 years in the independence soup, bubbling away on the twin burners of aid and foreign investment, like good little ingredients, the people are ready to be served up in two different ways!

Removing all the metaphors, the government is in a position to govern in accordance with socialist principles or open market non-principles.

Part of what they govern is education, state education that is.

Family

Hence, its character will reflect the alternative government opts for.

Mr. Matepi,correctly, came to Atiu and passed on the marxist observations upon the operation of the economy which three years of Coalition have made clear and incontrovertable.

Having now heard government give its papal blessing to basic marxism, we are now in a position to offer courses of action without getting bogged down wondering if anyone is going to take us before the House Committee on Un-Atiuan Activities for declaring that economic forces dictate our destiny.

This was why Matepi was so well received as soon as he proceeded to deliver his message to parents and teachers.

Gone were all the shoulders to the wheels, noses to grindstones, arses in action and appeals to other extractions from or insertions into the long-suffering pedagogic anatomy.

"You can't do anything without money," noted the good marxist minister.

Well...almost right, e Pi !

What you CAN do is rely upon a kamikaze squad of martyrs, idealists and crazies to leap on to the burning pyre of Cook Islands School Certificate syllabuses and try beating out the flames with their bare blackboard dusters!

That has been tried. But 1987 has seen the last CI education martyrs around the country willing to put THE CAUSE ahead of their and their families duty to pay off the kaiou down the shop.

After the long-to-be remembered ~~Raka~~ nui test case, the martyrs were left staring into the mirror of their own stupidity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

-OUR KIDS DO-

WHO PAYS FOR THE BOOM?

Education's Grim Tale

(Continued from Page 6)

When bonded scholarship teacher Tupuna Rakanui walked to his desk in Parliament to the acclamations of Ministers and members, it was a symbolic walk.

Mr. Rakanui was the most dazzling young education prospect produced in the CIs. post-independence era.

Tupuna, in effect, was what it was all about.

An Outer Islands graduate, a superb record in the most vital and most demanding of teaching fields (English Language), bilingual, bi-cultural and the forerunner of a steady number of new generation CIs. educationists being produced from the CIs own system...that what he represented.

There exists virtually nothing (bar a very few USP graduates) to replace the pre-independence generation of educationists such as Tui Short, Rangi Moekaa, Terepai Moetaua, Cecilia Kave etc who were products of foreign systems. Most of that generation have a decade to go. Then comes the BIG GAP.

There exists virtually nothing to replace the mighty band of ex-Primary teachers hauled into service as secondary teachers to salvage the system in the seventies.

Those teachers have carried the secondary system on their backs for nearly 15 years.

They have been made to undertake a burden of work and responsibility for which they were neither equipped nor trained.

They did it, and took all the inspectoral criticism, in the expectation of being replaced. They were the idealists of the system and are now all edging into their fifties still being abused for not producing what NZ pays her teachers 30 and 40 grand a year to do. Same courses. Same system. Same books. Same exams. Same everything. Except same pay. Same resources. Same terms of service.

WALKED

There is no one to replace them. One or two at Tereora. An occasional one at Titikaveka. But in terms of manning the most important service in a developing nation...nothing.

When Mr. Rakanui walked, he carried not the teachers' approbation with him but perhaps, the corpse of their long-suffering idealism.

Tupuna, old son, taku tamaiti, why couldn't you come to your desolate Outer Island and work 14 hour days, print your own books, and be subject to the most rigorous inspection system known to the Public Service... for 12-13 not so grand?

You bad lad!

Obviously, because you were right not to!

1987 has seen the end of idealism in Education.

Idealism destroys. That's the very clear message that 1987 has brought.

It destroyed the Labour Party innocents in Fiji. It is continuing to destroy kanaks front-lining for their political leaders. And on a small, personal level, it would have destroyed Tupuna Rakanui.

In the long run, Mr. Rakanui and his young contemporaries will be better off out of it and will serve the country more effectively for being where they choose to operate. Until, that is, the country's structures are sufficiently developed to justify forcing our young graduates to work within them.

And that, by a long circuitous route, brings us back to Mr. Matepi.

He seems to be giving a message. And it is a welcome one.

The message implies that the structure within which teachers operate are fit only for martyrs. Others have accepted that. Their words and actions have indicated that they are prepared to rely on a ready supply of disposable martyrs to maintain it.

And the structure, every year disintegrating a little bit more, CAN continue relying on the idealistic martyr.

Why Mr. Matepi has received an encouraging reception is that he plainly does not see that structure to be satisfactory.

That step in Ministerial thinking may be due to his experience as an ordinary grass roots Assistant teacher or maybe from his life as a small-time local businessman on his home island.

LANGUAGE

Whatever the reason, teachers may be persuaded that they have a Minister who talks their language and lives in their world.

Hence he presents an alternative to the tired exortations of predecessors who remove a speck from the tailored safari-suit, check the airline departure time and talk of sacrifice for the nation at assembly.

And that is all good news for Mr. Matepi.

The bad news is that the Open Market economic policies of the Coalition Government will close off his chance of producing a practical alternative.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

The reason why many teachers are extremely concerned at budget cuts. CIs. children are not merely budgetry items, they say...they are OUR children....often close relatives.

The Atiu College staff offer "special morning tea" to USP Extension Director John Herrmann... to celebrate the renewal of USP training programmes. April 1987. A month later came the depressing news of the Fiji coup and enthusiasm waned.

-OUR KIDS DO-

WHO PAYS FOR THE BOOM?

Education's Grim Tale

This Mangaia College intake class is now completing Form 6 - the first Outer Islands group to have done a full secondary course entirely on their own island under full local control. Reports from Mangaia suggest that this remarkable achievement may collapse.

(ctd...from Page 7)

The lesson quite clear from all the right wing economic systems operating in the West at present is that you can't have an entrepreneural, tax-cutting "privatised" programme AND a high quality educational system run by the state.

The deteriorating condition of state services under Dr. Robati, as under Sir Thomas, are but micro-reflections of their condition under Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Reagan.

In both the UK and the USA, education has seen massive cuts not in the name of cost-efficiency but simply because there isn't enough money around to maintain it at a level which advantages the masses.

There are no heroes and villains (a further marxist message which both Mr. Matepi and Secretary of Education Tuingapuna Short would accept). There is just the system we wish to place at the disposal of our children. And there is the money required to operate it.

Under right wing economic policies forced upon our government by the aspirations of a people conditioned to require an enormous import surplus, there will never be enough money to operate a desirable system.

At least 20% of the National Budget needs to be allocated (as in other developing nations) at a minimum to provide the mass education the country needs if the people are to become true beneficiaries of independence.

This cannot be done under current developmental objectives.

Mr. Matepi is struggling to achieve an ambition to restore a level of 10% or ½ the minimum required.

Mr. Matepi is not the only well-meaning figure with a problem.

Mr. Short, let not his critics forget, presided over a system (up to about the end of 1983) which could be truly said to be outstanding in terms of future potential and what was on offer for the mass of CIs. children.

Pared to the bone under Sir Thomas' open market philosophy, that system at the end of 1987 is now seeing its life blood drained away.

Mr. Matepi does not have the money. Mr. Short does not have the money. Mr. Chapman does not have the money. And parents, teachers and children are being misled if they are encouraged to believe that our education problems can be solved by abusing personalities.

LIFEBLOOD

Popular wisdom proclaims around the country that education's ills can set firmly at the door of the Education Department. Everyone, but everyone, has their apocryphal tale of Departmental disaster, it appears.

Most of them are probably true. Rarotonga is a village and a solid apocryphal tale to cap the previous apocryphal tale is the lifeblood of village life. Such tales are regularly directed at government departments, shipping companies, airlines, hotels, restaurants etc. and circulate until replaced by the next.

The tales, like the human agents bound up in the Education saga are of no consequence.

SHORE

The only thing of any importance is the percentage of the budget that government proposes to hand over to Mr. Matepi in order to shore up State Education before the confidently predicted disasters of Term One 1988 become a reality.

Such is the extent and depth of the current crisis.

Perhaps the only thing offering remote comfort is that neither Mr. Matepi nor Mr. Short seem prepared to permit all these issues to be fogged by other considerations.

There is little else which brings comfort.

SUBSTITUTE

Mr. Henry appears to be attempting to construct an alliance of hard-line CIP's, disaffected Demos and around a "social democratic" core. At present, he offers generalities rather than substance, style as a substitute for ideology. Even given the redoutable presence of Mr. Puna in his team, no CIP opposition programme yet indicates the radical shift in budget priorities Education requires.

The call is for "better management". Tui Short, rather than the budget, is the villain.

From the front bench, Mr. Akaruru has called for more help for Catholic private schools, Mr. Puna for the SDA variety. To their voices can be added that of Mr. Mare on the government side who tends to confuse education and transport whenever the subject of schools comes up.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Atiu College Culture Team - The glittering superbly professional public spectacle that outsiders see as CIs. education in all our schools. Culture-the one thing not affected by the budget!

-OUR KIDS DO-

WHO PAYS FOR THE BOOM?

Education's Grim Tale

(Continued from Page 8)

So far, in recent Parliamentary debate, only Mr. Ingram has been heard to offer reflections on budget realities.

However, as one of the architects of the Demo-Coalition open market policy platform back in the late 70's, it is not likely that too much faith in a radical return to central planning would take place in an Ingram-inspired administration.

Not even the most ardent anti-coalition ist could accuse Government of not offering substance in their economic policies or of allowing style to overrule ideology.

EVOLVE

The Coaltion style is simplicity itself.

It amounts to surviving until next week. The three Coalitions have worked without a platform or mandate for three years.

Its ideology is equally pragmatic. Spend.

Its substance is measured in terms of unearned patronage visible in dramatic form through wage-earner jobs, constituency donations and lavishly funded projects in isolation.

Its dynamics are those of all coalitions - those of political necessity.

Those of its members who wish to inpose an ideology such as Mr. George find themselves by necessity heavily involved in confrontational domestic disputes in order to placate those who are with them for gain rather than for reasons of ideology.

Those who are with them on ideological grounds increasingly contend that they are being pushed aside in the search for "floating" voters.

In such a climate, the austerity, tax demands and central planning which are the ground rules for successful state education, go by the board. And keep going by the board until the schools end up with 7½% of the National Budget.

SPEND

Mr. Henry's search for government is a search for an alternative coalition. Such a search is on already. He may be successful. But the same scenario will evolve and, after some cosmetic management changes, the same old economic forces and the same old search for foreign investment will produce the same old budget cuts in Education.

Mr. Matepi's job and, maybe later Mr. Puna s, is a very difficult one.

The NZ escape route for the CIs. working class removes natural demographic pressures from the political arena.

The same escape route taken by the rich and the educationally sensitive white and Maori elites means that their effective pressure to ensure quality education is also removed.

The politicians are then left with only two broad groupings in society - those operating within extended family economics who have more regard for a patronage job than a good education for their children - and those whose children's needs can be supplied by sending them to NZ.

Education has never offered more than fringe economic benefits and, even then, only within a highly planned economy.

Its political pressure is virtually nil.

Mr. Matepi and Mr. Puna will gain little sympathy in financial terms from their colleagues.

They will all disguise the reality in suitable political make-up but the end product in schools will be a grim picture.

The "boom" has to be paid for. The rules of the open market dictate that, combined with the development ethic of right wing politics it will be the sick, the needy, the destitute and the children who will receive the bill.

Mr. Matepi's task is to achieve the limited objective of making the repayments by the children a little less painful than they are at present.

The crisis has now reached such alarming proportions that even that will take a miracle to achieve.

— OUR KIDS DO —

Off to face the perils of NZSC!

The educational effects of a 7½% budget are already in evidence at the close of 1987 and will get worse in 1988. It can be argued that, in some areas, it will take two five year plans to restore the enviable position that was in sight by the end of 1983.

These effects have to be seen in the light of what broad objectives the "Short era" from 1978-today has sought to achieve. Unofficially, we detect these as:

1. The establishment of kindergarten to Form 7 free education according to norms which relate to NZ.
2. Manpower development to match economic development.
3. Localisation of manpower positions and curriculum content.
4. Duplication of national standards from 4 years to 15/16+ in all islands and communities.
5. Cost efficiency and continuity of repairs and maintence programmes.

Budget cuts at the level we are experiencing in the Cook Islands are seen by in-the-field teachers and Departmental officers alike to have the following short-term effects:

1. Inability to implement curriculum development because of travel, printing and research restraints.
2. Massive staff instability leading to ever-increasing shortages.
3. Cut-backs in existing subject areas and restrictions placed upon school subject development.
4. Increased class size allied with tougher re-admittance standards (thus leading to more unqualified mapu "on the streets")
5. Restraints on stationery and supllies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

COMPLETING OUR GENERAL SURVEY OF THE CIs. EDUCATION CRISIS.

THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

6. Removal of traditional activities in some areas.

7. Abandonment of internal examinations.

8. Abandonment of homework due to stationery costs and lack of text books.

9. Cuts in contact teaching hours owing to staff shortages.

10. Less supervision of children.

11. Reduced sports, library and recreational facilities and equipment as committee income is increasingly spent on what were basics supplied by government.

All the above leads to a dangerous drop in existing teacher morale and inhibits teacher recruitment.

As socialist economists may point out, it would be misleading to attribute the above to a 7½% Budget Appropriation or any given statistic. It is similarly misleading to attribute such problems to governmental lapses or Departmental failures.

7½%

Several deeprooted causes of the current crisis can be identified:

1: The overall post-independence political strategy of maintaining viable Outer Islands communities in all aspects of social welfare. In education, this has meant cost-inefficient duplication of national facilities in virtually every village in the country. The policy was inherited from the colonial era which encouraged decentralisation but supported it with no infrastructure. Ironically, decentralisation is cost-efficient under a "benign neglect" colonial policy but, of course, extremely costly under self-government political pressures.

2.: The national economic strategy of relying upon extended family survival economics (disguised as "cultural" structures) has enabled government to suppress wage rates for local teachers thus creating a major incentive for teachers to leave the profession.

3: The entrepreneural drives of the last 3 years, together with excessive levels of patronage, have encouraged a downgrading of education in national and governmental priorities.

4. Heavy over-staffing in the early and mid 1980's created a surplus of under-skilled teachers.

5. The ability of parents to remove children from the local system has reduced pressure on government by the most powerful lobbby.

6. Lingering colonial attitudes to support for deficiencies through charity, donations and local fund-raising had encouraged cabinets to look to education to "supply" any needed areas of budget cutting.

HIDDEN

The long term effects are, of course, hidden in the future. They will be principally seen in economic terms:

1. failure to meet professional, skilled and semi-skilled manpower needs thus:

   a. increasing the need for white immigration

   b. effecting profound long-term alterations to the demographic composition of Rarotonga.

   c. consolidating the trend towards what Geoffrey Henry has termed "bell-hop" status for the Maori within the economy.

2. increased levels of migration by Maoris

As a by-product will inevitably come the social consequences of placing an extremely low ceiling upon the aspirations of local parents for their children.

Perhaps the most serious long-term consequence, however, will be the insidious erosion of economic and political power experienced by the Maori people as we continue to produce from our schools an overwhelming majority of young citizens with neither skills, qualifications or sensitivity nor understanding sufficient to exercise responsible control over their lives or their society.

SUMMARY:

As American economist, political commentator and social critic John Kenneth Galbraith has noted, "all so called 'social problems' have very simple solutions. The people and their political leaders have difficulty addressing the very simple solutions. And that is the problem."

Our own Education crisis fits Galbraith's analysis. There is an extremely simple solution.

Structurally, in all respects, our Education system in Rarotonga and most of the Southern Group, is sound and (as up to 1983) was settling down to becoming the best in the Region. It had sound historical roots, was expanding rapidly and had been placed at the disposition of controllable private sector development, an apprenticeship board and a Manpower Training Unit powerful enough to (in 1983) direct scholarships towards ultimate control of the economy by the people.

At the end of 1983, record levels of NZSC and UE passes were being attained. The first Form 7 had produced a 90% success. Mangaia and Araura had Outer Islands 6th Forms. Discussions were being launched to draw up a new 5 year Plan for Primary Education.

Then came the political crisis of late 1983 and the dramatic swing to right wing open market economics by successive Coalition governments requiring huge levels of patronage to maintain its political control and huge levels of foreign investment to justify its existence and fuel its patronage levels. In budget after budget, education estimates were slashed at every stage of preparation and approval. We are now left with 7½%

So...the solution ? A minimum 10% hike in education spending to operate what is still the soundest educational structure in the region theoretically but will soon visibly reveal that it is physically falling apart.

One seriously doubts, however, that the CIs. now is capable of addressing itself to that solution. The price we pay for "booming development" based upon traditionally unstable industries such as tourism rather than primary resources is that simple solutions are very difficult to achieve because such economies and development programmes are self-sustaining and resist attempts to intervene and alter direction.

COMPLETED ON PAGE 11

THE PACIFIC BOTTOM

POLITICS

(continued from page 10)

The most grotesque distortion of economics was made by Tom Davis when he once laid claim to tourism and offshore banking as "natural resources"! The country has been encouraged to believe that absurd proposition. It may suit political rhetoric to condition people to believe that the Cook Islands has created the "boom" wealth. The investors in hotels, motels, airlines, travel agencies and offshore banking know the reality - that it is their foreign money that has been invested to propel the "boom" along. They will withdraw it as soon as a better investment offers itself. And they did not invest in the Cook Islands to provide government opportunities to redirect the thrust of development (by high taxation) into local children's education.

Comment

Back in business —Parliament kicks off

This week, the most important national institution re-assembles at the House of Parliament, Nikao. It is also the week of the crucial Vanuatu Elections. We hope that over the last few weeks, we have given you some insights into the mighty Regional Issues and the domestic problems which should be the background to this session. Below, we offer a review of how we see the ideological framework in which this current session of Parliament will proceed about its business.

Minister George is one member of the pragmatic Coalition government of the Cook Islands who is willing to see and offer a coherent pattern of development underlying economic policy over the last three years.

Before Papa Tom Davis declined, in many observers views, into an isolation approaching paranoia at times, he too presented a forcible statement of idoelogy both in personal discussion and through the medium of planners and strategists such as the highly eloquent Takitumu conservative Tuingariki Short (Secretary of Education).

Mr. Short's explanations of Coalition strategy were persuasive in the early and midterms of Coalition.

Mr. George's, whilst directed mainly at the limited Atiuan economic development rather than on a national basis, also merit serious consideration.

The highly effective anti-personnel fragmentation bombs Mr. Ingram has figuratively been hurling at government for the past three and a half years should not be allowed to obscure the fact that a coherent Coalition platform exists.

The fact that Sir Thomas appeared to underestimate his public's political awareness and Mr. Ingram's talents with invective should not deprive the public of a clear understanding of what Coalition is up to.

The first NZ Parliamentary delegation to visit the Cook Islands - just after annexation 1903

The individual members of Coaliton, ironically, may not know themselves!

Mr. Short appears to be going through a period of disillusionment and is no longer fronting up with the PR. The Coalition is the weaker for it.

The public have been ill-served by the pack of amateurs in charge of government PR under Sir Thomas. They got deservedly eaten alive by Joe Ka and the CIs. Times and have never recovered the image Big Joe landed them with!

REVEALED

Whether or not Government participated in the Sunday News counter attack on Joe is yet to be revealed, but it is beyond argument that any government claim to coherent ideology was wrecked in the Public mind by CIs. Times.

The situation exists now, however, that no one can tell the public what the government is up to, apart from attempting to prolong their lives.

It then becomes serious if a developing nation's democratic processes are to revolve around whichever side produces the best PR. We are not yet the USA, thankfully.

In an endeavour to place the Government's economic strategies in the context of a political ideology thus becomes the task of the media.

The list of haircuttings, weddings, fundraisings, sports, fun entertainment and personality pieces served up in the yellow pages of the Government's own press will not offer this.

So, what the public will see on Atiu, for example, is "hand-out" jobs, political terror tactics, so-called victimisation, favouritism, and the clubbing into submission of opponents by the conservative power-operators.

What they should be seeing is not the opposition propaganda (above) but a right wing ideology aimed at sustaining the open market economy and its entrepreneural fuel supply.

The task of opening up the market and knocking down the barriers standing in the way of petty entrepreneurship was not difficult. It was virtually accomplished by the end of the 1978-83 Demo government, on schedule and according to plans issued prior to the 1978 election.

The Demos failed on the political front. Only Vince Ingram seemed to be aware of their failures to do their constituency work. He provided bus shelters, lights, a sports field etc etc and gave the impression he believed in what he was doing. Papamama brought the Mangaians

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Parliament kicks off

(ctd...from Page 11)

the factory they demanded. The others either did nothing or gave the people what THEY believed was good for them.

Iaveta Short did a late run and PM Tom Davis stuck up a clinic on election night eve!

The public were not fooled and the ground work done by the Demos to establish a climate for entrepreneurism to take off was handed on a plate to the CIP's.

The quality of Geoffrey Henry's 1983 cabinet was such that, had it survived its internal problems, the CIP would have settled in for a long period of government along modestly social democratic lines utilising the work of the 1978-83 Demos as a basis.

That was not to be.

VOTERS

Eventually, in August 1984, along came Coalition, headed by a Tom Davis unable to forget his rejection by the voters a year before and a bunch of Demo followers who had learnt severe political lessons in March 1983.

Thus the Coalition (each variety over 3 years) set about the task of sustaining the growth possibilities which the Demos has opened up. At the same time, they were profoundly aware that the constituency stroking which Albert Henry did so well, is still an essential factor in survival.

Hence, the three most visible features of Coalition have emerged as:

*patronage and victimisation of the unresponsive.

*big foreign money and lots of foreigners around.

*crisis in the social services.

Thanks to an absence of government PR, there are less visible, but equally powerful, results of coaliton:

*a level of political stability higher than apparent elsewhere in the Region.

*Dramatic increases in high level Maori manpower and major advances in localisation up to and including international level.

*the creation of a new Maori business class.

*Impressive advances in infrastructure in some areas (with none in others!)

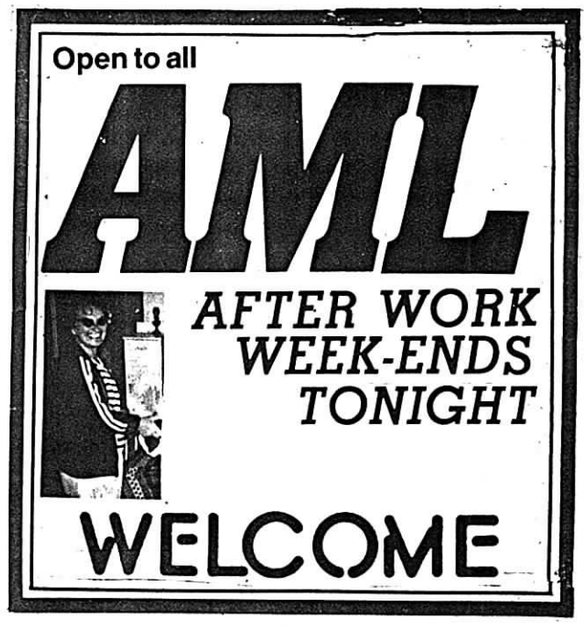
*a large level of overseas and white Cook Islander investment producing job opportunities.

*reasonable retention of youth on Outer Islands.

*Increased international status.

*Enormously increased recreational opportunities.

*Greatly increased community facilities at a recreational level.



With all that at government's disposal, the fact that they have been unable to resist the opposition's characterisation of them as vaguely fascist speaks much for their inadequate political expertise. (Hardly surprising as by definition, they have no disciplined party base).

But good opposition PR should not obscure the fact that the Coalition does have a powerful right wing ideology of growth.

POLITICAL

What we are witnessing is a programme of patronage and budget cutting in non-productive areas designed to sustain that growth at a political level.

Mr. George, however, is not content (like many of his colleagues) to sustain merely the political base until they get back in power.

He has learnt well from 1983 and correctly sees that political sustenance cannot be divorced from the continuation of the economic drive for more and more growth. Once the growth stops, right wing parties are in trouble with their money supply and hence their political security.

The US republicans sense this right now. Mrs Thatcher knew it so well that she accelerated a dispute with Argentina into a full-scale imperial war to fill in time between growth peaks.

Growth for Growth's sake, free and self-fulfilling, is classic rightist ideology and the Coalition is no exception.

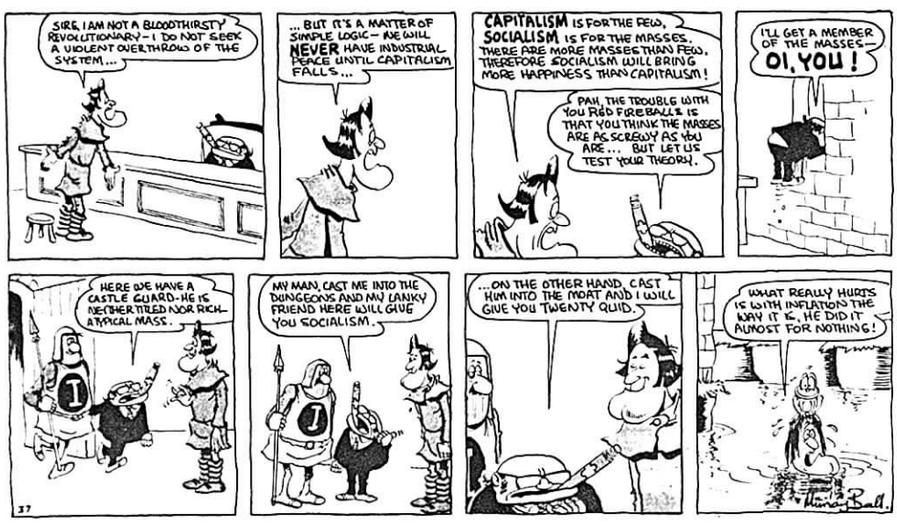
The people are entitled to judge for themselves whether it suits them. There are powerful economic voices which by and large support the ideology.

In this light, Mr. George's latest moves to bring a 12 unit motel, a salination plant and wood burning facility to Atiu within the next year can be seen not as election presents but a logical extension of policy.

The mapu have been retained through the use of patronage at this stage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

ALL THE KING'S COMRADES by MURRAY BALL


SIRE, I AM NOT A BLOODTHIRSTY REVOLUTIONARY - I DO NOT SEEK A VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF THE SYSTEM...
... BUT IT'S A MATTER OF SIMPLE LOGIC - WE WILL NEVER HAVE INDUSTRIAL PEACE UNTIL CAPITALISM FALLS...
CAPITALISM IS FOR THE FEW, SOCIALISM IS FOR THE MASSES. THERE ARE MORE MASSES THAN FEW, THEREFORE SOCIALISM WILL BRING MORE HAPPINESS THAN CAPITALISM!
PAH, THE TROUBLE WITH YOU RED FIREBALLS IS THAT YOU THINK THE MASSES ARE AS SCREWY AS YOU ARE... BUT LET US TEST YOUR THEORY!
I'LL GET A MEMBER OF THE MASSES— OI, YOU!
HERE WE HAVE A CASTLE GUARD - HE IS NEITHER TIRED NOR RICH - A TYPICAL MASS.
MY MAN, CAST ME INTO THE DUNGEONS AND MY LANKY FRIEND HERE WILL GIVE YOU SOCIALISM.
...ON THE OTHER HAND, CAST HIM INTO THE MOAT AND I WILL GIVE YOU TWENTY QUID.
WHAT REALLY HURTS IS WITH INFLATION THE WAY IT IS, HE DID IT ALMOST FOR NOTHING!
37

— Parliament kicks off

(Continued from Page 12)

Political instability has been removed (until the JOURNAL arrived, some say! They're lying, of course!) by backing traditional power blocs and getting them financially involved and committed.

Investment has been attracted. Government has proved it will solidly support all projects.

Hence, it is time to set about constructing the economic base and widening it.

And the first step is the energy infrastrure and the growth centre will be tourism.

The problem is the money supply. That can only come from mainly foreign private investment given a suitable stable and pro-capitalist climate in Rarotonga...with all the social risks involved.

LOCKED

Thus set, out the whole ideological rationale of the Coalition will fall into place.

As far as Atiu is concerned, locked as it is into extended family economics, no better scenario exists. There is no alternative any opposition can produce except an alternative MP to Mr. George. That is why, correctly, they are not coming up with alternative programmes on the left of the political spectrum and are aiming the thrust of their opposition at the personality of Mr. George. He looks ripe for the plucking unless he can stand off a bit and let the economics take care of themselves.

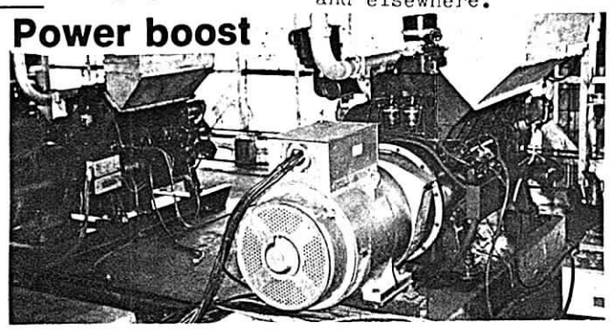
THAT, we feel, offers a picture of CIs. and Atiuan politics at an accurate ideological level.

Was government in a position to offer up their ideology in coherent form, the challenge would then be to the opposition to produce alternatives...thus giving the people a real choice which would mean the chance of real "people 's development".

We hope the above analysis, if flawed maybe in places, may at least offer our readers more profitable leisure time activity than watching the mud-slinging matches that will probably get underway early in the New Year.

In future weeks, we shall attempt similar positive analyses of the ideological basis of the CIP, of the Ingram Demos who now appear to be true inheritors of the Party banner, and of the small, low-profile leftist movement currently gaining momentum in Auckland, Rarotonga and elsewhere.

Power boost



Atiu Power Station - due for boost ?

MR GEORGE'S LATEST ECONOMIC ANNOUNCEMENT:

*An Australian group is ready to arrive in January to set up a desalination plant and wood-burning facility valued at $400,000 in energy input.

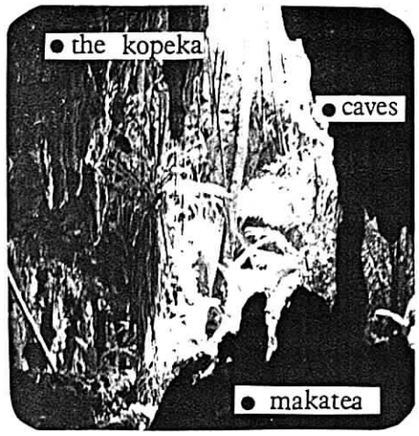
*A cable will link the plant to the existing supply providing 24 hour electricity.

(NOTE: Our enquiries indicate that there may still be severe plant problems at EPS because of old machinery, rotten poling, and insufficient cabling - the estimated bill $2m.!)

*A 12 unit motel will be set up within the year.

Atiu Island

- beautiful seclusion
- tropical wilderness
- birds
- beaches.



Atiu Motel...

four Host and Hostess
- Dr Roger and Kura Malcolm
Guides
- Taio, Tangi, Vaine and Aukino

Picture Perfect

ECONOMICS

It's like finding a paradise where money grows on trees!

ABOVE: Standard Cook Islands Ad Agency promotion in recent years. "An insult to Cook Islanders", was the comment of a Rarotongan teacher when shown the example above. Laughable, ludicrous and lying it may be but that's the way it will remain until government intervenes on behalf of the image the nation wishes to be truthfully presented. The JOURNAL claims that the truth is no hindrance to top quality, commercially effective LOCAL promotion - if the effort is made.

It is tempting to feel warm vibes for the proposed CIP policy of returning "proprietorship" of our now vital tourist industry to "the people".

Tempting. But dangerous. What the opposition is offering amounts to tinkering with an industry moving relentlessly into a self-induced need to move "up-market".

The tourist industry is in good hands when it involves a dialogue between local entrepreneurs who have their lives, children and quality of living in this country at stake and a government strong enough not to require cash at any price. The contrary picture of our tourist industry is visible at present.

18 months ago, Papamama Pokino spoke for his side of the opposition when he told the CIs Times that tourism had its own built-in controls on an island as small as Rarotonga. That confidence cannot now be shared.

Atiu may become the next target for tourism. The incentive is likely to be the unplanned "guessonomics" of supply-side philosophy.

One of the best ideas Tourist Expert Dorice Reid offered four years ago was a plan to base the industry upon a calendar of local events. This provided controls, offered airlines and entrepreneurs a good basis for planning, heavily involved "the people", and played a significant role in community development.

The policy is still much in evidence. The JOURNAL contends that it is essential to build upon the early work of Mrs Reid and insist at all times that it be directed at the people's activities (rather than commercial imports such as Maine Kuki Airani and elitist sports events which generally fall into the hands of foreigners and local elites sooner or later).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

(continued from Page 14)

In 1985, JOURNAL editor David Lewis accompanied the outstanding locally-based sports photographer Wendy Evans to the annual Muri Races.

What was produced was published by NZ CUE Magazine and, by permission of CUE, is produced here.

We feel it is an example of what should become the basis of our Tourist promotion in so far as at the centre of it all is the life, history and activities of the Cook Islands people.. ..and their horses!

The JOURNAL will endeavour to present regular features on the Cook Islands in keeping with our belief that Tourism is for the people and should at all times, in its promotion, feature the people truly.

ROADSIDE RELICS

(by David Lewis)

The Senior Steward was in charge. Microphone. Public address system. Information services. Racecards. Weights. Current form. Even where a caught-short tourist might find a toilet.

He had guaranteed it would be a proper meeting. And a proper meeting it was. Quinellas and all. Almost an exact replica of the real thing — like they do over there far beyond the horizon.

The same as it had been every second week in October since 1928, give or take the occasional interruption. A war perhaps. Or just plain forgetfulness.

And, indeed, the day couldn't have been better. It was all just as the Senior Steward had promised it would be. The sun sparkled off the deep blue lagoon. A gentle breeze wafted through the coconut fronds ... et cetera.

Just like in the brochure. Unlike the previous four days of driving cold wind and sleet when the Met Office had failed to do its duty towards paradise.

But now, it was the real Cook Islands again. In all its unreality. Sunshine, booze, laughter and a race meeting. Right alongside the lagoon!

Long lines of customers queued at the tote hut. The beer tent spilled out members of an Australian car-dealers tour by the canful. Stalls on long trestle tables under the ironwood trees were lined with goodies. There were shell necklaces instead of funny hats, fat dripping doughnuts rather than candy floss, and rows of freshly husked coconuts filled with cool sweet juice instead of lines of lemonade bottles.

All just like overseas. All hot and sticky. All loud and beery. All, as the Senior Steward proclaimed through the feed-back on the mike, lots and lots of fun.

The duty-free radios played ukelele tunes and an occasional soulful Samoan siva. An oval Aussie, pink from nose to belly, rolled off yards of video film for the folks back home who missed it all. A long languid blonde, all lissome and sort of Swedish, adjusted enormous blue sunglasses and dipped a toe into the lagoon.

Noisy little white kids dashed from bright red father to bright red mother, demanding more. Giggling little brown kids watched them until a passing adult swiped them far into the background where they came from.

In the distance spinnakers billowed out from tiny sailboats. Yellows. Greens. Scarlets. Stripes. Dots. Circles. Shimmering in the haze of midday, far away near the foam-topped reef.

Close by the shore, near the starting post, another oval Aussie emerged from under a windsurfing board, remounted, and disappeared again under the board.

"Give it up and have a beer, mate," called a completely spherical Aussie stretched out on the beach peeling a banana.

The Senior Steward took charge again.

Minute little boy jockeys, all laughing eyes and smiling teeth, hauled their mounts into the parade ring. The tide was out. The going was firm. And everything about the annual Rarotonga Jockey Club's annual October meeting was in fine condition.

Apart from the horses, that is.

Everything else had its Epsom or Longchamps equivalent, but even the Senior Steward had found it hard to come up with an equivalent horse. So what you saw was what you got.

Today's Rarotongan horse, relieved for the day from its normal roadside wanderings. Each one a gunnysackful of rattling bones. Yapped at by dogs. Poked at by kids. Blasted at by cars. Unshod. Ungroomed. Unwashed.

And not even a rosette behind the ear or a brushed mane or tail could alter the impression that perhaps you would be wasting your 50 cents to bet on the order of them finishing. Maybe it would be more profitable to find odds on any of them surviving the initial shock of being thrashed into a gallop.

"Fresh Fido," says a local observer and tells his dog, "Look boy, not yet in the can!"

The horses look almost self-consciously apologetic — apologising to their mighty ancestors of the 20s and 30s. They were the proud ones, imported from strong Tahitian or New Zealand stock. Vital to the transport system throughout the southern Cooks in the pre-jumbo, pre-Datsun pick-up, even pre-tenspeed days.

Essential working companions on the plantation. Crucial economic factors. Accorded dignity and status and, more to the point, a grooming and a good feed.

That's how it used to be, so the old people say.

Back in old Judge Ayson's time, for example. In 1928, when the judge himself set up the Rarotonga Jockey Club, virtually in recognition of the importance of the horse to society on Rarotonga.

Back then, before Mr and Mrs Aussie Car-Dealer came on the annual sales incentive punting package.

Back then, when the family horse was given the respect offered today to the family four-wheel drive.

A long gone era, of which remains just the memories of old men and the sad-eyed, four legged descendants of those mighty workhorses of yesteryear.

About to line up on the sand for the start of the 900m Maiden Handicap. Eternally maidens. Forever handicapped. Curiosities. Not even remotely Polynesian. And of all the aliens who have come to settle in the South Pacific, the ones with probably the least prospect of long-term survival.

Unless, like many a just-surviving human resident, a way is found to entertain the tourist. Like now, at Muri Lagoon, where long ago the great canoes set sail on epic voyages. In Takitumu district, where not so long ago great horses used to plough the richest land on Rarotonga.

Where each October the pretty sailboats flutter on the waters and merry little jockeys lash the roadside relics up and down the beach, while a blank-eyed blonde sips bubbly by the shore.

Where what you see is what you get. Where what you buy is what you're sold. And a tottering tourist tapes it all on video.

"They're off!" the Senior Steward calls.

The videos whirl. The cameras click. The cans pop open.

And the result ...?

According to the Senior Steward, first past the post was number seven ... by a wheeze! □

The Muri Races - (CUE magazine) ph. Wendy Evans. A shot that could only be taken in the CIs! One of the many fine sports pix from the Evans team cameras and one that gives some insight into how the people of the CIs. can be promoted professionally. Compare with Page 14!

Public Reaction ?

Perhaps the letter to the Editor of CUE (right) indicates the effect of the above article on one NZ reader!

First published CUE Magazine NZ.

A READER'S THOUGHTS TO THE ABOVE STORY

ROADSIDE RELICS

Can we have more stories like The Roadside Relics of Rarotonga (*CUE*, Dec 1-7). That was a travel story with a difference and made one realise that the Cook Islands are not just happy residents and swaying palm trees. I laughed from start to finish in the article and would like to see more stories about life in the Pacific Islands. I'm also going to save up for the next October meeting of the Rarotonga Jockey Club.

Jan Parker

LIVING

Presenting the winners

Atiu College's 1987 Prize Day will honour the George family in a special way.

In spite of a lasting manpower crisis which over the years has produced a severe lack of qualified Atiuans at the highest levels, the outstanding lead given by members of the George family in demonstrating that Atiuans can reach the highest ranks in the professions sets an example to all students.

Consequently, as part of its policy of promoting academic achievement as well as honoring a distinguished local family, the first award of the "George Trophy" will be made on December 4 by Foreign Minister Norman George.

Minister George is presenting the Trophy on behalf of himself and his family.

It will be the highest award on the programme and will go to the student judged by staff and committee to be the most reflective of Atiuan values, past and present - academic, sporting, social and cultural.

LOCALLY

It is, however, not in his political capacity that the Minister is presenting the trophy but as the first locally produced Atiuan graduate and leading figure in one of Atiu's most distinguished families.

Norman George on a hospital visit to Atiu (left). Mrs. Tungane George (r) beside Dr. Subhash Vatsyayann and a small George (!) centre.

Minister George himself can point to a route to the top which is open to all Atiuans.

He started his career at the tiny Atiu Primry School, continued in school in NZ, obtained high rank in the NZ Police and completed a law degree before returning to Atiu to enter politics.

TIMOTHY ON THE WAY

Atiu's only home-grown representative to the 1987 SPG in Noumea, long distance runner Timothy Martin leaves this week to join his coach and CIAAA team-mates in their build-up for the Games.

17 year old Timothy has now a long and distinguished record of local performance.

This culminated in his victory as first CIs. runner home in this month's RRRR - a performance which won him a spot in the 1988 Hawai'i marathon.

CIAAA Secretary Anne Tierney writes that the young Atiuan has been a model national representative and thoroughly merits the honour of selection to represent the country at the SPG.

"SUPER" Talking

(Dr. Malcolm's views do not necessarily represent those of the JOURNAL)

Less than impressed by the recent Select Committee's offerings on the subject of superannuation, Atiuan businessman and entrepreneur Dr. Roger Malcolm sat down to offer the JOURNAL some thoughts on alternatives. Dr. Malcolm is a former business manager of the JOURNAL and has been a leading Outer Islands businessman for 8 years. He is married to AML shop owner Kura Malcolm.

While few could disagree that a method whereby the people of the Cook Islands could be provided for in their old age would be a good thing, it is not necessarily best implemented as policy by the Parliamentary Bill proposed.

We have just seen a Select Committee performing a "travelling show", crossing the "i's" and dotting the "t's" on a scheme that everyone is obliged to accept as the best one!

There ARE alternatives! Two are presented below and there are undoubtedly many more.

The first is a scheme which removes the problems of finding good investments for a fund and the possibilities of it going bankrupt!

It is basically very simple.

Everyone contributes to a pool and, on the basis of past contributions, this pool is divided amongst all superannuants. The scheme has the advantage of being inflation proof. There is no fund that can go bankrupt.

It is not affected greatly by disasters unless we have one that disables the working population only.

The major snag is that such a scheme does not provide a large investment fund for the moneyman and/or Government to play with! This may not be a snag!

This brings us to the next alternative which does give CIs. some money to play with and ensures that in the case of the fund going bankrupt, the contributor does not miss out.

The NZ government presently provides an excellent super scheme for government servants. It may be possible to extend this scheme to include more than public servants. Also NZ should not be insensitive to the concept of investing some of the super contributions back in the Cook Islands. Not to do so would be immoral and would reek of colonialism which if levelled at NZ would induce a certain amount of flexibility to the idea.

Given NZ willingness to extend the fund to all CIsers and invest part of the contributions back in the CIs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

(continued from Page 16)

we have the best of all worlds. This best is worth going for.

The possibility of the CIs. repeating the Western Samoan experience whereby they repatriated their super scheme from NZ to W. Samoa and ended up with a bankrupt scheme after a series of disasters and bad investments in W. Samoa is very real.

We are a third world country, still trying to find a stable, self-sufficient economy. In finding this economy, there will be many failures, so why tie our old age to the failed projects of our youth?

Think of the many projects the CIs. has tried and failed at.

To be realistic a CIs. super scheme is obliged to avoid the possibility of these.

The present scheme as envisaged does not.

The two events affecting the lives of everyone on earth are the world finance crisis and the forthcoming summit conference between the leaders of USA and USSR which may bring a significant reduction in the pace of the world arms race.

Having tried to keep readers abreast of developments over the past weeks, we now look at the immediate situation and note that the two leaders face considerable domestic difficulties

THE NEWS

international

With the world anxiously awaiting the outcome of the upcoming December Reagan/Gorbachev summit, the two leaders themselves are less concerned with arms control this week than economic affairs.

Both, reading between the lines of the international news, face massive problems in maintaining economic policies they have initiated.

Both, of course, pursue very different economic programmes. But, in each case, the programmes are revolutionary and are in trouble.

For Reagan, the battle continues this week to find a compromise solution to world demands that the USA reduce its enormous budget deficit. Such a move would re-open threatened trade relations with Europe and Japan and ease the threat of a recession of global implications in European industry. It would also, it is believed, restore some measure of confidence to the world' stock markets.

While investors appear to be nervously poised and ready for the right moment to start another huge round of selling, the USA is facing what economists call "a crisis of will". Do the Americans have the political will to face cherished tax concessions being cut, defence spending reduced, protectionist policies abandoned etc in the cause of reducing the budget deficit and restoring confidence to traders, and foreign exporters?

At the weekend, the answer was a tentative yes as a joint White House and bi-party congressional team came up with a deficit cutting package to present to Congress.

The package propose a $75b. reduction over the next year via taxes, defence cuts and agriculture cuts.

The package faces still a rough passage through Congress where the Republican minority is expected to present stiff opposition to what they regard as too many concessions by the White House in the area of taxes.

Meanwhile, the package has been reported as well-received in London and Tokyo. All business eyes will be focussed this week on the Wall Street Exchange to see whether the latest moves ignite a spark of confidence and stability among investors.

Mr. Gorbachev's problem on the other side of the ideological world are similarly bound up with concessions.

Mr. Gorbachev's policies of "Renewal" have involved a restoration to respectability of long-discredited economist Bukharin, whose mixed economy philosophy formed the basis of revolutionary economic planning in the early years of the Revolution.

"Renewal" has brought forth many over-zealous supporters who have apparently run foul of the old guard strict central planners.

Mr. Gorbachev has travelled a tightrope between the two camps.

Last week, his attention was directed at re-assuring mixed economy supporters that "Renewal" was for real after the severe disciplining of an outspoken Party Supporter of the "Renewal" programme...a move believed to be the result of a need to re-assure the powerful conservative bloc under pressure in the Party from the new liberals.

Party Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev-monitoring reform and riding a knife-edge.

President Ronald Reagan - monitoring finances and riding a knife-edge.

SPORT

GET TOUGH!

European Soccer once again a crisis situation regarding spectator hooliganism.

And yet again the problems involve the two most notorious hooligan nations, The Netherlands and England.

A lengthy report upon the violence and brutality of soccer crowds in Europe has been issued in Belgium.

The report offers convincing evidence that soccer hooliganism is today a highly organised affair cutting across national frontiers and involving now well-known criminal figures in charge of fast-tra-

(cont..on Page 18)

Glasgow Rangers' Butcher..recently sent off for inciting a crowd to violence in the Rangers/Celtic match last month.

(ctd..from Page 17)

velling Dutch and English games offering each other a network of strategic information.

The governing body of European Soccer, UEFA has now taken for their spectators' conduct in a recent Holland-Cyprus European Cup encounter.

The match which was won by Holland 8-0 has been ordered to be re-played behind closed doors. The Dutch FA have been ordered to pay a fine of $50,000 following reports that the Cyprus goalkeeper had been injured by missiles thrown at him from the crowd.

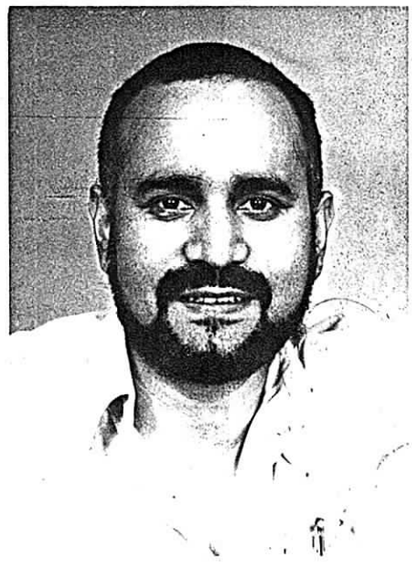
In England, last weekend's Plymouth Argyle home fixture started with a minute's silence in memory of a 17 year old spectator beaten into a coma by rival fans last mid-week - a coma from which he never recovered.

£2m !

The international celebrity pop-singer Elton John has sold his controlling shares in Watford FC of the English 1st Division. John received £2m for the chairmanship from Press baron, Robert Maxwell.

Maxwell already owns 1st Division Derby County and his son Kevin is Chairman of rival 1st Division club Oxford United.

The English Football Association is due to meet to see whether Maxwell contravenes standing rules on conflict of interest in club ownership.



DEAR DOCTOR ...

Medicine

We thought you might like to have a look at the real thing, this week! Presenting...Dr. Suresh Vatsyayann MD, UNV officer from India and author of our 22 week advice column on local ailments, illnesses and their cure. This week, the doctor's advice deals with the painful cause of many a lost day at work. No...not hangovers! The result of many years of hangovers - GOUT!

Dear Doctor,

Iam told I am suffering from "GOUT". What is gout ? What are the precautions I should take ?

Gout is recurrent acute arthritis (joint pains and swellings), especially of peripheral joints like those of the feet.

Usually the first to be involved is the joint between the great toe and the foot. This results from the deposition of mono-sodium urate crystals from the blood in and around the joints and muscle tendons. If not cared for it becomes chronic and deforming.

This increase in uric acid in the body fluids,(purine metabolism product), can be both a result of a genetic or an acquired abnormality.

Excessive purine synthesis in the body and diminished renal clearance of uric acid are the major factors responsible.

For Atiuans, increased incidence of gout could be a multi-factorial one.

Over-indulgence in the tumunu, over-eating, (especially meat, fish, chicken etc, including the meat of the organs) and a known Polynesian tendency to excrete less urates from the kidneys (a racial tendency) -all these play a significant role. Thiazide diuretics and lead poisoning can also develop gout.

These excessive mono sodium urate crystals not only deposit in and around the joints causing pain and swelling but also produce gouty nodules around the joints (tophi) and start eroding the joints and damaging them permanently.

In addition, they may deposit and form kidney stones (1000 times more chances than normal people).

They may also damage the kidney directly.

A throbbing, crushing or excruciating pain is usually felt at night or early morning first.

There is swelling, redness, warmth and tenderness of the joint involved. The skin is tense, hot, shiny, reddish-purply in colour.

Fever and chills may accompany this.

Prevention:

Avoid over-indulgence in alchoholic drinks and tumunu visits. Avoid over-eating. Avoid excessive eating of organ meats (liver, kidney, heart etc.)

Reduce weight to optimal level by eating local food.

Take sufficient daily physical exercise by walking to the office or workplace.

Drink enough water to flush out excessive urates.

If a sufferer, consult your doctor. Remember, treatment is of two kinds. One cures the symptoms and signs. The second avoids further attacks and deformities.

Don't tend to stop taking the second kind of medicine once you feel all right, as that is the real treatment... .as it fights the cause.

You may have to take the medicine for months to years to remain fit and to avoid serious complications.

LOOK

Enjoy this

by

Subhash Vatsyayann

MAUKU

This grows as a weed around all plantations and even around houses and kitchen gardens in Atiu.

It is a green vegetable with most of the benefits of leafy vegetables, it is particularly good for mild diuresis (increased urine production).

It helps reduce swellings on the body and serves as a blood purifier.

When cut into pieces or crushed it gives a mucilagenous feel. So the best way to cook it is to steam the stem with the leaves as a whole.

However, if it is cooked with lentils (dal) or meat, it can be cut into pieces and cooked accordingly.

VERA

World War 6

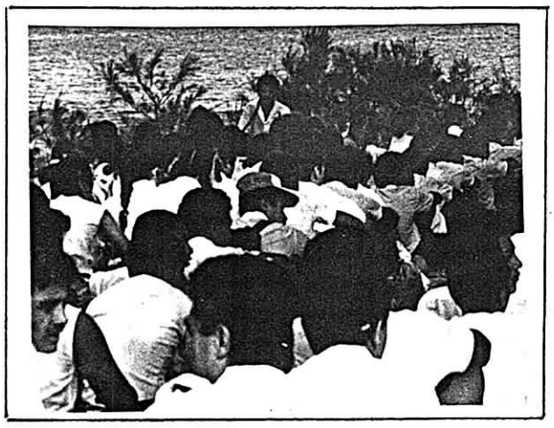
" to all well-regulated families
The Spectator, No. 10, Monday, March 12, 1711

November 23 Monday Morning — Takutea

There are millions of them here and they're always having babies.

Whites flood into our country

PUBLIC OPINION



ABOVE: A recently released shot by the Takutea Immigration Authorities of radical white underground agents employed by the notorious Offshore Banking wing of the infamous Chamber of Commerce sect. They were rounded up by the crack elite Special Takutean task force. Note the tricky way in which these guerillas have painted themselves brown to escape detection.

NOW READ ON....

they breed like rabbits

Addressing a massed gathering of MOW wage workers near the sacred swamp last Friday, Imam Nga Puta called upon Allah to inflict a plague of rushing mighty share ballayses on all white terrorists and their children.

"They smell rotten," declared the 79 year old former Takutean ice dancing rep,"and they can't dance for toffee."

Other speakers pointed out that white terrorists were on the increase and could be recognised by their pink noses and thin hairless legs.

The Imam commanded the good people of Takutea to shoot any white lurking in the vicinity of his mosque on the spot.

"Let us pray," he concluded.

Mullah Metu Mohammed (heavily disguised)

88 murders in one hour !

Widespread disappointment followed the showing of top-rated Karate Spectacular "Disembowelment III" at the Takutea Tivoli on Thursday Morning.

A large crowd of toddlers had been brought along by their mamas to see the much heralded saga of a 12 year old virgin ice dancer from Nagasaki who is raped, disembowelled and cut into a thousand and two mystical pieces by her beloved old Kung Fu Master and is eventually glued back together a wandering MOW samurai of no fixed abode.

"No good," was the verdict of a 3 year old movie buff, "only 88 murders in first hour."

"F....ing rotten," agreed her two year old leather-jacketed lover, "someone cut out the bit where they were going to stuff her kidneys up her nose."

Most fans blamed video supplier, G.H. of Rarotonga whom they considered was going senile as he had been sending over heaps of boring old Meryl Streep rubbish of late.

"No comparison with 'Ballmangler IV'" was the popular verdict among Takutea's hard-core video fans.

"My mum saw that when I was a foetus," said one, "and it sort of got into the blood."

Religion —the Enemy

The CICC church and Meeting House were burnt down by the Boys Brigade last Monday.

Onlookers cheered in celebration of the final removal of the hundred and sixty year curse cast upon the good people of Takutea by the Christian Missionary heretics.

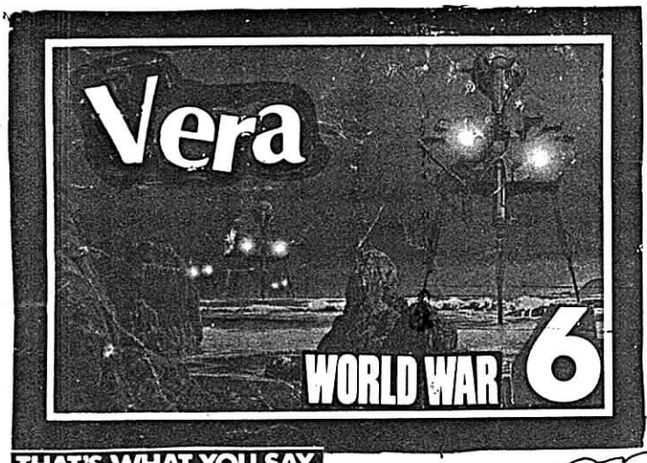
In a short speech, Mullah Metu Mohammed declared Takutea an independent Islamic Republic for all time.

"We were tricked," declared the Mullah (formerly the Rev. Tangi Tuttakakino of Swamp View, Takutea, "they sent us the wrong missionaries!"

The Mullah later told our reporter that the real missionaries who were supposed to arrive by dhow in 1821 got waylaid by Tahitian "rere's" and were beaten to Takutea by the Christians.

"All is well now," he declared, "fund-raising has begun for a new mosque and tonight we are going to stone an adulteress to death after the dance."

Mullah Metu said that he felt Islam was much more suitable to our people as it allowed the minister to chop off people's hands which would make sure no one mucked around with his missus again as had been happening in primitive Christian times.



THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY

Urgent call from Atiu, Obergruppenführer. Seems like they've got a minority and need a final solution!

Ooo Aue! Sikhs, Tamils, Nagas, Melanesians, Moslems, Tibetans, Buddhists... Minorities are all the same! The majority of them, that is.

Look, Mr. Immigration officer, this is really just about as far as I'm prepared to go!

Laughing back

Some of my best friends are blackish!

I wonder if this is a good time to tell him about my son and his daughter!

Every night we have family prayers and give thanks we aren't Ethiopean!

OH YEH? IF YOU GUYS ARE AS CAPABLE AS WE ARE, HOW COME YOU'RE STILL BLACK?!

MURRAY BALL

OFFICIEL

Le UP VOUS French View

Bon bombes to vous all encore. Le editor have asked moi to add un petit outstanding reflection sur le subject of le racisme. Nothing est plus simple mes amis. Dans la Mighty Frog Empire il is no such thing. Pas le length et le breadth of Frogland. Le spirit of le multi-racisme est everywhere. Je myself am un bon example. Je visits le incredibly black Africa regulierement et je is le first to admit quels superbe knockers sont sur les tribal dancers at les State Welcomes. Je have ordered all les citoyens de la Mighty Empire to live dans le peace and fraternity except pour les ghastly kanak hordes.

F.